post office at Lemalo in Cuttack district has been upgraded to departmental sub post office since March 1993 in Orissa. District-wise details of extra departmental branch post offices are given in the statement (see below).

(b) There are 240 gram panchayats of different districts in the State of Orissa without extra departmental branch post office. Post Offices are opened in the gram panchayat subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of resources.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of extra Departmental Branch POs open ed so far in Orissa Circle, under Annual Plan 1993-94

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of extra deprtmental branch post offices opened
1	K oraput	1. Chipahhar 2. Sudabari 3. Aunli
2.	Kalahandi	1. Birikote 2. Badabafal 3. Malkandel 4. Sirmaska
3.	Nowrangapur	1. Kumuli 2. Dalbeda 3. Chatiguda 4. Parachipada
4.	Phulbani	1. Luising 2. Tekangia 3. Kajuri 4. Marlanga 5. Majhipada
5.	Sundargarh	1. Sankraposhi

REGULARISATION OF EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS

2504. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Ministe of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of extra-departmental agents as on date;

(b) whether Government propose to regularise their services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of Extra-departmental agents as on 31-3-1993, was 3,06,027.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The work load in ED post offices ranges between 2 and 5 hours a day. When the work load exceeds the maximum prescribed limit of 5 hours a day, the feasibility of conversion of the ED post office into departmental post office is explored. On conversion the

post office is manned by departmental employees of the appropriate cadre. The ED Agents are paid a consolidated monthly allowance determined with reference to the work load. In view of the nature of the duties performed by them, they are treated as part-time agents of this department. Hence, it is not possible to regularise the services of ED Agents on whole-sale basis both on functional and economic considerations. However, in view of their association with this department, they are accorded preferential treatment in the matter of recruitment in departmental Gr. 'D'|postmen cadres. Residuary vacancies pertaining to departmental quota in time scale clerical cadres are also offered to eligible ED Agents. Such of the ED Agents as get recruited in departmental cadres by successfully competing among themselves, automatically become eligible for all the facilities and privileges such as leave, pay scales, pension, gratuity, increments etc. as are available to the departmental employees.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AND P&T OFFICES IN RAJASTHAN

2505. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of post and telegraph offices as well as telephone exchanges functioning in Rajasthan, district-wise, as on 30th November, 1993;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more post and telegraph offices and telephone exchanges during 1993-94 and 1994-95 in various districts of Rajasthan, particularly in Jaipur;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and category-wise, and the steps taken by Government during the last two years to increase the number of such offices; and

(d) whether Government propose to give some exchanges of the Department of Telecommunications in Rajasthan, on lease to the private sector, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 10287 post offices and 1914 telegraph offices were functioning in Rajasthan as on 30-11-1993 district-wise details of which are given in statement I & II respectively (*see* below).

Information in respect of telephone exchanges is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) As per target assigned, 30 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 5 Departmental Sub-Post Offices are to be opened in Rajasthan during 1993-94. Out of these 30 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have already been opened. District-wise details in this respect are given in statement-III (See below). Details in respect of 1994-95 have not yet been finalised as state-wise targets, for opening of Post offices are being fixed annually.

Information in respect of telegraph offices and telephone exchanges to be opened in 1993-94 and 1994-95 is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The information is also being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.